

Final Minutes of the
San Joaquin River Management Program
Action Team Meeting
September 20, 2000

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Modesto, California

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

The San Joaquin River Management Program Action Team met in the office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Modesto, California. There were no comments on the Draft Minutes of the July 26, 2000 meeting.

USACOE Comprehensive Study

Alicia Kirchner updated the group on the formulation of early implementation projects. The name of the early implementation projects has been changed to Initial Projects (IP's). The IP's will be completed sometime in phase three of the plan.

Kirchner explained the criteria and process used to select IP. The selection process is ongoing and interested parties can participate by submitting a brief of their project. A list of the current IP's was to be provided to SJRMP for distribution. More information can be found at the Comprehensive study website at: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/civ/ssj>

Letter of Support for Early Implementation Projects

After discussion by the group and review of information given by Kirchner, it was decided to table the SJRMP letter of recommendation. Members will still be able to participate in the process, by submitting ideas and projects directly to the Comprehensive study for consideration as an Implementation project. SJRMP is identified as a step in the Comprehensive Study review process.

Goals and Objectives

Landis reviewed the current activities of the committee guiding development of SJRMP's goals and objectives. Recent funding and cooperative efforts like the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the Parks and Water Bonds (Propositions 12 and 13) have opened up opportunities. SJRMP can provide a regional forum in the San Joaquin Basin, similar to the SB 1086 process, for local agencies,

environmental groups and landowners to work directly with State and Federal agencies to develop ideas and to meet these challenges. A planning session was held on August 31, 2000, to discuss how SJRMP can best perform this role. Following are some of the thoughts that resulted from that session.

1. Provide a regional watershed, ecosystem-wide perspective for critical issues without the limitations imposed by political boundaries.
2. Provide regional grassroots forum to interface with other groups such as CALFED, counties, environmental organizations, water rights holders and landowners to generate buy-in for implementation of projects.
3. Adhere to the original SJRMP mandates to use a consensus approach and to assure that actions do not negatively impact other beneficial uses.
4. Implement actions in 1995 SJRMP Plan.
5. Streamline the permitting process.
6. Educate the public and promote entire watershed area.
7. Ensure continued local involvement.

Process

1. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement.
2. Establish a firm membership list.
3. Develop process to make decisions and set priorities (establish bylaws).
4. Hire and fund a non-agency chair or coordinator.
5. Hold evening meetings on a set schedule at a set location.
6. Establish topic or area based subcommittees.
7. Establish a timeline for meeting goals.
8. Obtain authority to enter into contracts, receive funds, etc.

At the next Action Team meeting on October 23 the group will discuss the goals and objectives formulated by the group.

Real Time Update

Ernie Taylor gave an update on the activities of the Water Quality subcommittee and Real –Time Water Quality Monitoring Network. The subcommittee is working on finishing contract with U.C Berkeley. The contract with CALFED is late and unlikely to be completed before December of 2000. The workshop planned for September to show users how to operate and utilize the information given by the model was postponed until the next Regional Board workshop.

Watershed Workshop

Kevin Faulkenberry updated the group on the course "Working at a Watershed Level" planning. Currently, the focus is on obtaining funding and identifying potential sponsors. The subcommittee is still waiting to hear the outcome of the CALFED proposal. It is anticipated that USFWS will consider funding the course if CALFED does not. Funding for the Tuesday night dinner is still being sought. Faulkenberry also reminded everyone that there is an opportunity to display a poster presentation during the week. The website for the project is:
<http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sjd/sjrmp/workshop/index.html>

Next Action Team Meeting: October 23, 2000 at 1:00p.m.

Action Team Meeting
Of
September 20, 2000

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